



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott  
Governor

Jennifer Carroll  
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.  
Secretary

May 5, 2011

Captain Drew Pearson, U.S. Coast Guard RRT IV Co-Chair  
Seventh United States Coast Guard District  
Marine Safety Division  
909 SE 1st Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33131-3050

Mr. Shane Hitchcock, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency RRT IV Co-Chair  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Captain Pearson and Mr. Hitchcock:

The Region IV Dispersant Use Policy was a cutting edge document when first approved in 1996. Since that time, while communication and response technologies have changed enormously, the concept that dispersing oil in offshore waters can prevent or minimize nearshore impacts remains as valid today as yesterday. The State of Florida believes that the Region IV Dispersant Use Policy document needs to be updated to reflect these changes and technological advances, including lessons learned during the response to the Deepwater Horizon spill.

Given the age of the document and current sensitivities related to dispersant use in state waters, pursuant to section 5 of the Letter of Promulgation dated October 8, 1996, the State of Florida withdraws all state waters from the Green Zone for dispersant pre-approval as outlined in the Region IV Dispersant Use Policy in Ocean and Coastal Waters. This includes all state waters three nautical miles off the Atlantic coastline and nine nautical miles off the Gulf of Mexico coastline.

The state of Florida remains committed to the mission of the RRT and believes in its value as a resource to the federal On-Scene Coordinator. As a demonstration of this commitment, I will be happy to assist the RRT Response and Technology Committee with updating the Dispersant Use Plan and other plans (such as the in-situ burning plan) and guidance documents developed by the RRT.

This change to our pre-authorization boundaries is effective upon receipt.

Sincerely;

Douglas C. White  
State of Florida  
RRT Region IV Member

cc: Commander, Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville  
Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami  
Commander, Coast Guard Sector Key West  
Commander, Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg  
Commander, Coast Guard Sector Mobile  
Outposted EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
Bureau of Emergency Response Field Managers